United Nations TCDC/12/L.4

Technical cooperation among developing countries

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High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries
Twelfth session
New York, 29 May-1 June 2001

A. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the decisions of the High-level Committee

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the validity and continued relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 52205 of 18 December 1997, resolution 53/192 of 15 December 1998 and resolution 54/226 of 22 December 1999, relating to Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries,

Taking note of the Programme of Action and the Declaration of the South Summit adopted in Havana on 14 April 2000, which specifically emphasized the increased relevance and importance of South-South cooperation,

Recognizing the complementary role that TCDC plays in promoting the integration of developing countries in the global economy,

Noting that the effective functioning of national TCDC focal points and the full utilization of the TCDC modality, require, inter alia, adequate financial and human resources, as well as international support,

Having considered the reports prepared by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries within the United Nations Development Programme,[1]

[1] TCDC/12/1, TCDC/12/2 and TCDC/12/3.

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1. *Notes with satisfaction* the important emphasis by the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should enhance support for South-South cooperation.

2. *Encourages* developing countries that have not already done so, to put in place a well-articulated national TCDC policy, including a clear delineation of the role of the TCDC focal point.

3. *Requests* the Special Unit for TCDC, in order to facilitate and ensure greater understanding of the TCDC modality, to organize subregional orientation workshops for national and United Nations Agency TCDC focal points.

4. *Takes note with appreciation* the important focus given in the Second Cooperation Framework for TCDC to mainstreaming the use of the TCDC modality in the operational activities for development of the United Nations system and requests the Administrator of UNDP to give priority and the required level of support to the attainment of this objective.

5. *Calls upon* the international community to provide catalytic support, including through TCDC, to strengthen the efforts of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in responding effectively to the challenges resulting from globalization, to enable them to fully integrate into the global economic system, so as to benefit from international trade and investment.

6. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of triangular cooperation arrangements to facilitate South-South programmes and projects and requests the Special Unit for TCDC, in the context of mobilizing increased resources, to intensify its ongoing efforts to attract and generate broad-based partnerships for TCDC.

7. *Reiterates* the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that international institutions and developed countries, in designing, formulating and executing projects for technical cooperation in developing countries, give priority to the use of local capabilities, consultancy and expertise and, where not available, to the use of technical resources from other developing countries.

8. *Also calls upon* the Special Unit for TCDC, in collaboration with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations and in full consultation with concerned countries to promote the use of southern R&D capacities for increased agricultural productivity, especially in the areas of agro-based industry, aimed at improving food security, job creation and income generation.

9. *Further requests* the Special Unit for TCDC, in collaboration with other partners in the field of science and technology, taking into consideration the Seoul Accord and the recommendations emanating from the thematic discussion on science and technology, to catalyse TCDC programmes specifically designed to enhance exchanges and the sharing of knowledge and information on science and technology, including technology development, applied technology, information and communication technology, bio-technology, electronics, renewable energy and traditional technologies.

10. *Further requests* the Administrator of UNDP to consider allocating a portion of TRAC resources as well as additional resources for South-South cooperation and TCDC activities in keeping with the increased focus of South-South

cooperation in the UNDP Business Plan and also to ensure that TCDC TRAC supported activities are adequately reflected in ROARs and included in his report to the thirteenth session of the High-level Committee.

11. *Commends* the evolving economic cooperation between African and Asian countries in the context of effective follow-up to the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).

12. *Commends* the efforts of the Special Unit for establishing Internet-based gateway for South-South cooperation, known as the Web of Information for Development (WIDE), and in this context, requests all organizations of the United Nations Development System, including regional Commissions, to make information in their existing databases on the South-South cooperation activities more accessible through WIDE. And calls upon the Special Unit to continue to assist LDCs and African countries to facilitate and enable their connectivity and use of ICT, as well as, establishment of homepages in the Internet.

13. *Notes with appreciation* the efforts of the Special Unit in promoting South-South knowledge-sharing through compilation and dissemination of successful practices in developing countries in areas such as, social development, economic development, protection of environment and science and technology, and encourages the Special Unit to continue with and enhance such efforts.

14. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to include in his biennial report to the High-level Committee at its thirteenth session, a comprehensive report on progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and on the implementation of the present decision.

B. Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

Proposal by the Group of 77 and China

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/119 of 20 December 1995, 52/205 of 18 December 1997, 54/226 of 22 December of 1999, as well as the related resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling its decisions 9/2 of 2 June 1995, 10/1 B of 9 May 1997 and 11/1 B of 4 June 1999 on the "Review of progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries" and reaffirming the continued relevance and validity of the new directions for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Stressing that South-South cooperation, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, represents a viable strategy for developing countries to pursue individually and collectively sustained economic growth and

sustainable development and to ensure their participation in the newly emerging global economic system,

1. *Notes* with appreciation that a growing number of developing countries, especially pivotal countries and Southern centres of excellence are initiating and sponsoring technical and economic cooperation among developing countries activities designed to benefit large numbers of developing countries;

2. *Notes* further with satisfaction the increase in developed countries support to technical and economic cooperation among developing countries including through triangular arrangements and, in this context, encourages developing countries, regional and subregional institutions and centres of excellence, in collaboration with the Special Unit, to draw lessons from past experiences in triangular cooperation and design innovative South-South cooperation programmes, with a view to enabling greater participation by donor countries in such programmes;

3. *Welcomes* the financial contributions made by some developed and developing countries to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and to South-South triangular cooperation initiatives catalysed or managed by the Special Unit, and urges other developed and developing countries that have the capacity to do so to contribute generously to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, taking into account the main objectives of promoting development and poverty eradication;

4. *Requests* the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including regional commissions and other relevant multilateral institutions to take further concrete measures to systematically integrate the use of the modalities of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries into their regular cooperation programmes in line with the new directions strategy with a view to support their effective implementation;

5. *Encourages* the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, in collaboration with the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including regional commissions, to document and disseminate innovative and successful practices of technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, including triangular cooperation arrangements and those supported by the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system;

6. *Welcomes* the strategic orientation and programme focus of the second technical cooperation among developing countries framework 2001-2003,[2] and *calls upon* developed and developing countries, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, the private sector and other interested partners to enhance their financial support to the Special Unit in the implementation of the framework;

7. *Notes* further with satisfaction the establishment of national technical cooperation among developing countries web sites in a number of developing countries and, in this regard, *encourages* these countries and other development partners including the donor countries to assist other developing countries,

[2] DP/CF/TCDC/2.

especially the least developed, landlocked developing countries, and transit developing countries and small island developing States in establishing similar web sites as well as the necessary infrastructure in order to bridge the gap of the digital divide between developed and developing countries and among developing countries;

8. *Requests* the Special Unit for TCDC to assist in documenting and disseminating the special problems and needs of the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries through WIDE, with a view to providing a platform for the international development community to help address such special problems and needs of these countries taking into account the concerns of transit developing countries;

9. *Urges*, in the context of the expansion of the technical and economic cooperation among developing countries modalities, donor countries, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including regional commissions as well as other development partners to intensify their efforts to support South-South initiatives designed to benefit especially the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and small island developing States with a view to expanding their intra-trade and intra-investment opportunities and achieving sustainable development and more equitable integration into the global economy;

10. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its thirteenth session on progress made in the implementation of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries, with emphasis on the implementation of the present decision.